



## HOME GROWN

Main Lesson Blocks in Home Surroundings in Classes 1, 2 and 3 provide a broad and deep foundation for specific subject areas that emerge in the Upper School – Geography, History, Botany, Human Biology, Zoology, Weather, Astronomy.

Home Surroundings is essentially an exploration of the young child's "home" environment and yet it is also More... it ties in with Emotional Literacy and Social Responsibility and Community-building.

If a child has time to view the interweaving relationships within his environment and relate responsibly towards it, then such "outward awareness" will also affect his inner development.

He will be more sensitive to his fellow man, he will sense more readily "the community" around him - his place within it and the intricacies of social ecology.

Home Surroundings has the potential, not only to enlighten the mind but also to nurture the child's inner development.

The seeds for resolve/responsibility are planted in the early years and Home Surroundings has a seminal role to play... It all begins with wonder!

Wonder fosters observation.

Observation fosters Understanding.

Understanding fosters Responsibility.

The child that is rushed through the foundational stages of wonder and observation misses out on the inner preparation necessary for the development of a deep understanding of our planet and life upon it. Too early and too quickly the child absorbs narrow concepts and forms shallow conclusions and thus ends up with a compartmentalized view of life on earth.

Because he was not able to associate meaningfully with Nature he is at risk of becoming, in adulthood, an irresponsible consumer of its gifts, unable to adhere to the concept of sustainability.

The Class 1 Home Surroundings block offer the child a wonder-full journey. Via stories that nourish... that heighten sensitivity... that foster observation, he enters the beauty of Earth. Stories of Rivers, Mountains, Flowers, Trees, Native Creatures and seasonal changes assist him to feel "at one with the earth".

During Home Surroundings in Class 2 the child explores the Kingdoms of Nature... diversity within unity... awareness of the Great Web of Life. He immerses himself in the wonders of the three great Kingdoms of Nature.

**Air** – birds who flit and dive and burrow and hover, who build with twigs, who burrow, who weave...

**Ocean** – and the inhabitants of the shallows and of the deep... tiny creatures like the krill, great beings like the whales... schools of fish... shell dwellers...

**Earth** – with its myriad treasures... coal, gold, crystals, iron... not just “the dirt” upon which we walk...

Class 3 – The gifts of earth that sustain us... material for dwellings, food to eat...

Class 4 – A deeper exploration of the animal world.

Class 5 - A deeper study of plants/soil.

Class 6 – World Geography... Our Solar System... Astronomy.

From Ruth – Education Coordinator